

by a pro se plaintiff in Yakima County Superior Court, Yakima County, Washington, against Vice President ALBERT GORE, as President of the Senate, and Senators GORTON and MURRAY. The complaint attacks the validity of federal tax laws essentially by challenging the validity of all legislation enacted subsequent to the Seventeenth Amendment, on the basis that the Constitution prohibits the direct election of Senators provided for by the amendment.

This action is subject to removal from state court to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington. This resolution authorizes the Senate Legal Counsel to represent the Senate defendants in this suit to move for its removal to federal court, and then to seek its dismissal for failure to state a claim for relief.

Mr. COVERDELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 78) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 78

Whereas, in the case of *Jim Russell v. Albert Gore, et al.*, Case No. 99-2-00749-1, pending in Yakima County Superior Court, Yakima County, Washington, the plaintiff has named as defendants Vice President Albert Gore, Senator Slade Gorton, and Senator Patty Murray;

Whereas, pursuant to section 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(1), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend Members and officers of the Senate in civil actions relating to their official responsibilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is directed to represent Vice President Gore, Senator Gorton, and Senator Murray in the case of *Jim Russell v. Albert Gore, et al.*

DESIGNATING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate resolution 79, submitted earlier today by Senator LOTT.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 79) designating the Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee for the 106th Congress.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. COVERDELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 79) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 79

Resolved, That the following Senator is designated as the Chairman of the following committee for the 106th Congress, or until his successor is chosen:

Joint Economic Committee: Mr. Mack, Chairman.

CONGRATULATING BOYD CLINES, LARRY ROGERS, AND MATT MOSELEY FOR THEIR BRAVERY AND COURAGE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate resolution 80 submitted earlier today by myself and Senator CLELAND.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 80) congratulating Boyd Clines, Larry Rogers, and Matt Moseley for their bravery and courage in the April 12, 1999, rescue mission of Mr. Ivers Sims.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. COVERDELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this resolution be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 80) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 80

Whereas on April 12, 1999, a treacherous fire erupted in a historic cotton mill in Atlanta, Georgia, and Mr. Ivers Sims, a construction worker, found himself suspended 180 feet in the air trapped by raging flames surrounding him;

Whereas Boyd Clines, a Georgia Department of Natural Resources pilot, and his navigator, Larry Rogers, arrived on the scene and negotiated a helicopter through the menacing wind, smoke, and fire which emanated from the cotton mill, while an Atlanta firefighter, Matt Moseley, dangled from a rope near the flames, all in an attempt to save Mr. Sims;

Whereas Boyd Clines, Larry Rogers, and Matt Moseley, in the true spirit of heroism, demonstrated amazing courage and valor in risking their lives in order to save the life of Mr. Sims;

Whereas the teamwork, dedication, and bravery that Boyd Clines, Larry Rogers, and Matt Moseley displayed during the rescue mission enabled the mission to be successful;

Whereas Atlanta firefighters, police officers, Sheriffs deputies, and residents diligently worked together in order to fight the massive fire that engulfed the historic cotton mill;

Whereas Atlanta residents at home during the fire helped during the crisis by rescuing

pets and using garden hoses to extinguish the flames emanating from burning debris;

Whereas the Atlanta firefighters, facing shortages of equipment and personnel, heroically contained a fire that could have spread beyond the cotton mill and enveloped a historic neighborhood now being revitalized;

Whereas the fire crisis of April 12, 1999, shall be remembered not for the tragic loss of the historic cotton mill, but instead for the heroism and bravery displayed by Boyd Clines, Larry Rogers, and Matt Moseley; and

Whereas it should be recognized that Boyd Clines, Larry Rogers, and Matt Moseley have brought pride and honor to the State of Georgia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Boyd Clines, Larry Rogers, and Matt Moseley for the bravery and heroism that they displayed during the April 12, 1999, rescue mission of Mr. Ivers Sims; and

(2) commends Atlanta firefighters, police officers, Sheriffs deputies, and residents for the outstanding teamwork that they displayed in fighting the fire of the cotton mill.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, to digress for just a moment, this is a resolution acknowledging the heroism of Boyd Clines, Larry Rogers, and Matt Moseley. I doubt that there is hardly an American alive who did not watch that stunning and chilling event when these three men exemplified all the virtues of American heroism. It is a stark reminder of what Americans, who work for our fire departments, our rescue units, our law enforcement agencies all across the country, are capable of doing, and their total dedication where they will often set all their own personal safety aside in the name of helping another citizen.

It was all embodied in this enormous event that occurred in Atlanta, GA several days ago. It was an incredible sight and witness of American heroism. I am particularly pleased to be able to join with my colleague, Senator CLELAND, in the authorship of that resolution which has just been approved.

REFERRAL OF MEASURE—S. 754

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that calendar No. 86, S. 754 be referred to the Environment and Public Works Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TERRY SANFORD FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 911 just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 911) to designate the Federal building located at 310 New Bern Avenue in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the "Terry Sanford Federal Building".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.